

2.3 SITE - PERMITS, APPROVALS, AND REQUIREMENTS

2.3.1 Environmental Policy Act

The purpose of the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) (Sections 22a-1 through 22a-1h of the Connecticut General Statutes) (as with the National Environmental Policy Act) is to identify and evaluate the impacts of proposed state actions which may significantly affect the environment. This evaluation provides the decision-maker (the sponsoring agency and DPW) with information necessary for deciding whether or not to proceed with the project.

The design consultant is not expected to decide whether a project warrants a complete CEPA review; such determination is left to the sponsoring agency and DPW. Within DPW Technical Services, the Supervising Environmental Analyst is the DPW CEPA Administrator for this process. At the discretion of the DPW CEPA Administrator or at the request of the DPW APM/PM or sponsoring agency, an Initial Environmental Review (IER) may be conducted by the DPW CEPA Administrator to determine whether the project is applicable to CEPA or to assist in scoping out the environmental issues to be covered in an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE). The IER is an internal cursory review or screening process that looks at issues in broad terms. It is not meant to be a detailed review process nor is it required for every project. An IER serves these primary functions:

- to assist in determining if an EIE is needed;
- to document the review of potential issues that are determined not to be significant;
- to identify the significant issues to be analyzed in detail if an EIE is needed; and
- to assist in determining potential permits, certifications, and approvals for the project.

(Note: an IER does not replace the design consultant's obligation to continually assess what permits, certifications, or approvals the project may require as the project progresses or from submitting DPW's *Checklist for Permits, Certifications, and Approvals* (Form 330 L) with each phase of the project.)

The consultant selected for the design will not prepare a CEPA document as this would create an inherent conflict of interest. If an EIE is required, DPW will contract with an independent environmental consultant to prepare the document in accordance with DPW's CEPA Procedural Manual as amended. The design consultant shall provide the environmental consultant with copies (hard or electronic as needed) of current design information, drawings, and site plans to incorporate into the environmental document. Normally, the CEPA document and the design are developed simultaneously.

The design consultant **shall be** responsible for reviewing a CEPA document, particularly if the CEPA process occurred prior to design, to ensure information relevant to design and construction are accurate, and that agreed upon mitigation measures can be incorporated into the design/construction and are incorporated into the contract documents. A project can not proceed to the contract document phase without having completed the CEPA process, unless special permission is granted by DPW. The CEPA process is considered complete when the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) determines the EIE and the Record of Decision are adequate.

The design consultant shall anticipate attending up to two environmental document review meetings (typically called the Working Copy and Revised Working Copy review meetings). The design consultant is also responsible for complying with any permit requirements noted in the CEPA document. If the design consultant is involved in a

project that requires additional effort beyond the normal services (e.g. attend additional meetings or a public hearing), the DPW may approve this additional work with prior notification from the consultant.

For historical requirements refer to Consultant's Procedure Manual "Cultural Resources" Section 2.4.2.

Refer also to *Checklist for Permits, Certifications and Approvals* (form 330L) as indicated in Section 2.3.5.

For further information or for assistance regarding CEPA, contact:

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